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Whome many thousands, with one breath :
Cry out, let him be put to death .
Who indeede can neuer die :
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THE
EXAMINATION

AND

Who

TRYALL

of Old Father

CHRISTMAS.



At the Assizes held at the
Town of Difference, in the
County of Discontent.

Written according to Legal proceeding,
By Josiah King.

LONDON:

Printed for Thomas Johnson, at the
sign of the golden Key in
Pauls Churh-yard.

1658.

To the Worshipful John Hodge,
Doctor of Physick at Medbury
in Devon.

Sir:



Pardon I beseech you my presumption, in presenting you this insuring Allegory : I must confess, it is too trivial for your grave perusal, yet the reading perhaps may serve to the same end the writing did, which was only Recreation; Fancy is a Daughter of *Salomons* good Houswife ; she will bee spinning before it bee light : Sir, I hope you will *Candidly* construe his intention, who is weak in his indeavours, though strong in his desires, and if he could he would not ; or if he would, hee could not, be otherwise than

Yours Servant in the bonds
of affection.

Jofah King.

To

To Captain Thomas Prinne, of
Wembury.

Sir :

In discharge of my promise, I here tender you
the service of an old man, let him not be ser-
ved, like the Serving-man, turned away be-
cause old; I hope he will not speak any thing
that may offend a chaste ear: yet I question not,
but there will be evil report raised on him, and
indeed, Wee were to him, if all should speak
well of him.

I know you are ingenious, and besides
I have been told, a lover of good Tydes:
O let them flow! if they content do bring;
But never ebbe, thus praiers your servant

(King)

To Momus, or the Critick.

Self-conceited Sir,

I know thou wilt brag, thy very breath is
enough to poyson the Muses: how many
pots of oyntment hast thou spoyl'd, I know
thou wilt be chopping upon my broken stile,
but tell me, canst thou expect flowers from
him, that never walkt in Apollo's garden? If

A 3 thou

thou sayest, here is something stolne, I say
thou lyest; it is but borrowed, and that is the
Method: The Author of the Isle of man,
and I had it from the Assizes; now be advised
by me, put thy ears in under thy cap; and
shut thy black mouth, and then no body will
know thee; thus saith

I. K.

To the honest Reader.

Friend:

MY intent in writing this Allegorical
Tryal of Christmas, was not to ven-
mine opinion upon the observation of the time,
he that observes a day as hee shoulde, may keep
Christmas every day: & only herein is expressed
some part of those arguments which are used in
pleading for, or against the keeping of it: It
will be I hope no cause of controversie, there is
too much division already, for which there is
as much grief of heart: Pray for the peace of
Jerusalem, let them prosper that love it.

Blessed are those that all dissention hate,
And strive to quiet a disturbed state.

Vale.

The

The TRYAL of Christmas.


 He day appointed for the Assizes being come; the Judge and the Sheriff with the Justices of the Peace, came to the place where they were to sit: and first I think it would not bee amiss to tell you the Names of them; the Judge was called Judge *Hatebate*, the Sheriff's name was Sir *Leonard Love-peace*; the Justices are call'd as followeth; the first is Justice *Hate-bribe*, the second is Justice *Wise*, the third Justice *Upright*, the fourth Justice *Doe-good*, the fifth Justice *Fear-none*; these with the Judge and Sheriff, being settled on the Bench, the Judge read his Commission; after which, the chief of the Prisoners, being one *Old Christmas*, was commanded to bee brought to the Bar; then was a Jury for Life and Death to bee impannel'd, who are for the Common-wealth,

and are to give in their Verdict according to their Evidence, and as they were to be called, there stopt up one Sir *Hica Busy*, and delivered a list to the Sheriff, informing him, that the Country desired those men whose names were set down, might bee the Jury to pass upon old *Christimas* at the Bar; which the Sheriff for quietness sake, delivered to the Clerk of the Arraignment, to have them called, a company of brave Gentlemen, you shall hear them named by and by.

The Clerk having received the Paper, bid the Cryer call, as followeth.

Cler. Cryer, call Mr. *Starve-mouse*.

Cr. O yes, Mr. *Starve-mouse*.

Cryer, call Mr. *All-pride*.

Cr. O yes, Mr. *All-pride*.

Cryer, call Mr. *Keep-all*.

Cr. O yes, Mr. *Keep-all*.

Cryer, call Mr. *Love-none*.

Cr. O yes, Mr. *Love-none*.

Cryer, call Mr. *Eat-alone*.

Cr. O yes, Mr. *Eat-alone*.

Cryer, call Mr. *Give-little*.

Cr. O yes, Mr. *Give-little*.

Cryer, call Mr. *Hooyd-corn*.

Cr. O yes, Mr. *Hooyd-corn*.

Cryer, call Mr. *Grutch-meat*.

Cr.

Cr. O yes, Mr. Grutcb-meat,

Cryer, call Mr. Knit-gut.

Cr. O yes, Mr. Knit-gut.

Cryer, call Mr. Scipe-time.

Cr. O yes, Mr. Serve-time.

Cryer, call Mr. Hate-good.

Cr. O yes, Mr. Hate-good.

Cryer, call Mr. Cold-kitchin.

Cr. O yes, Mr. Cold-kitchin.

Then saith the Clerk to the Cryer, count them, Starve-mouse one, All-pride two, Keep-all three, Love-none four, Eat-alone five, Give-little six, Hoord-corn seven, Grutcb-meat eight, Knit-gut nine, Scipe-time ten, Hate-good eleven, Cold-kitchin twelve.

Then saith the Cryer, all you bountiful Gentlemen of the Jury answer to your names, and stand together, and hear your Charge.

With that there was such a lamentable groan heard, enough to turn ice into ashes, which caused the Judge, and the rest of the Bench, to demand what the matter was; it was replied, that the grave old Gentleman Christmas, did sound at the naming of the Jury; then it was Commanded that they should give him air, and comfort him up, so that hee might plead for himself: and

here

here I cannot passe by in silence the love that was expressed by the Country people, some shreeking and crying for the old man; others striving to hold him up; others hugging him, till they had almost broke the back of him, others running for Cordials and strong waters, insomuch that at last they had call'd back his wandring spirits, which were ready to take their last farewells.

Then said the Judge, old man, what's the matter?

Christm. Ah good my Lord! I have been grossly abused, and had been trodden under foot, had not these good Country people helpe me.

Judg. But mee thought I heard some say, it was at the naming of the Jury. If thou hast ought justly to except against them, I will hear thee.

Christm. I heartily thank your Honour, and this favour which your Lordship hath granted me, hath encouraged me to crave another, and that is, That you be pleased to grant mee the benefit of a Councel, in regard of mine Age, and defect of memory and expression. Besides, the Jury are all strangers to mee, as well as enemies; and therefore I desire my Councel may be one

of this County, that so he may describe the Gentlemen of the Jury.

Judge. Well *Christmas*, in regard that thou wert a merry old man when I was but a Boy, and did often at thy comming make me sport, I have granted thy request, choose thy Councillor.

Christm. I humbly thank your goodnessse my Lord.

Then the old man whispered to a Friend, to deliver a Fee to Councillor *Crab*, and desire him to deeypher the Jury, and as occasion did offer it self, to Plead his Cause.

The Fee being delivered, and accepted, the Councillor after this manner spake to the Bench.

Council. My Lord, may it please your Honour, this Jury which is now impanneld, and to pass their Verdict upon old *Christmas*, is illegally chosen, there is not one of them a Free-man, and all mortal enemies to this old Gentleman.

And first of all here is Mr. *Starve-mouse*, I wonder how hee dare shew his face in Court, the very Cats cannot abide him.

Secondly, Here is Mr. *All-pride*, I must confess he hath an estate.

But

But at his house-keeping you may admire,
Where silken gowns do quench the kitchen fire;
And of his Cup, there's none that ever taste,
And break their necks may, sooner than their

(fast.

And when at any time a feast be'l keep,
He in Bravado will kill half a sheep.

Here's another my Lord cal'd Eat-alone, a
Malefactor my Lord, and ought to be con-
demned by *Magna Charta*; where it is to be
found, that one of the Lord chief Justices
own Clerks being accused, was forc'd to
free himself, and get it recorded, that he eat
not his morsel alone.

To be short my Lord,
To eat his breakfast be a corner sought,
And in his pocket bathe his dinner brought.

There's another of them cal'd Give-
little, hee may well be called give nothing,
yet the Fool will sometimes bragge of his
Charity; if he kills but an Egge, and give the
offall to the needy: he is, my Lord, a great
benefactor to the poor, but will bestow no-
thing upon the Beggers; and as for Master
Cold-kitchin, here is his man Sam Servant,
is ready to give Oath, that hee hath almost
hurthered him to death.

And

And for Mr. *Hoards-corn*, the people in general all curse him, it is he that makes the Ephal small, and the shickel great; good my Lord, let Justice be done upon him, unless he will save *Gregory* the labour, and follow the steps of his father, who the last cheap year hanged himself.

There's another of them cal'd Mr. *Grutch-meast*, he may be termed grutch cloaths too, for his cloathes were never young in my memory, they may be set down in the Almanack with the dear year, and the great frost: he is one that never gave Almes in his life, the house of his owne body he will not keep Tenantable, but it had been irrecoverably decayed; had it not been for the reparations of other mens Tables, where hee hoords up meat enough for a month; in a word, my Lord, he is a base fellow, and so I leave him.

There's another of them cal'd Mr. *Servetime*, he dwells at the signe of the Weathercock; he hath a glove for every hand, he holds it most safe to do as most do, right or wrong, he'll be on the harder side.

And when a hunting goes, I have been told,
He with the Hare will run, and Hound will
So my Lord not fit for a Juror, because he makes

makes conscience of nothing.

Judg. Wete there ever such a brood of Vipers as these, Mr. Sheriff, how came this to pass?

Sheriff. Surely my Lord it was Sir *Hica Basy* that gave me the List, and told mee, it was the Countries desire that these men should bee the Jury; and I was indued to beleeve it, in regard I know him to bee a popular man.

With this the Jury began to murmur, and told the Judge that the Councillor had abused them to please his Client, as most of his fraternity will doe; and therefore would appeal, or stand to justification.

Council. My Lord, here are some witness to prove the truth of what I have spoken.

Judg. Let them come in.

Coun. Cryer, call *Humility*.

O yes, *Humility*.

Judg. Come friend, can you testify any thing against any of the Jury?

Hum. My Lord, I am convinced, that all that hath been spoken by the Worshipfull Councillor is true, but especially I can speak something more against Mr. *All-pride* than hath been yet declared: for may it please your Honour, hee hath indeavoured to mur-

der mee, and my Neighbour Patience: all his practice is in brave cloaths, bigge looks, swearing and swaggering, and insulting over his poore Neighbours, there was one Mr. Good-work lived in the house before this fellow threw him out of the doores; he spent more in Mustard every year, than this gandy Gentleman doth in Beef, hee keeps two wicked men to his Servants; the one is call'd Stony-heart, the other Bribe, and these help to keep him up in his wicked courses.

My Lord, here are many more witnesses if your Lordship please to examine them.

Judge. No, no; this is no Justus' day, Mr. Sheriff, let another Jury be impannel'd immediately, a pack like the former, if they bee to be gotten, to the Councill.

Before he finde their Fellows, he must take Tophet throughout, and the infernal Lake.

The Jury being chosen, were called as followeth.

Mr. Love-friend one.

Mr. Hate-strife two.

Mr. Free-man three.

Mr. Cloath-back four.

Mr. Warm-gne five.

Mr. Good-work six.

Mr.

Mr. Neighbour-hood seven,

Mr. Ope-house eight,

Mr. Scorn-use nine,

Mr. Soft-heart ten,

Mr. Merry-man eleven,

Mr. True-love twelve.

No man taking any exception against this Jury, the Clerk read the Inditement against old *Christmas*, as followeth.

Cler. *Christmas* hearken to thy Inditement.

Christmas, thou art here Indited by the name of *Christmas*, of the Town of *Superstition* in the County of *Idolatry*, and that thou hast from time to time abused the people of this Common-wealth, drawing and enticing them to Drunkenesse, Gluttony, and unlawful Gaming, Wantonnesse, Uncleanness, Lasciviousnes, Curseing, Swearing, abuse of the Creatures, some to one Vice, and some to another, all to Idleness: what sayest thou to thy Inditement, guilty, or not guilty? he answered not guilty, and so put himself to the Tryall.

After this, the Parties that can give Evidence against him are call'd.

Council.

His innocence appears; I lay a Crown,
Whiter than untrod Snow, or Culver down.

Cler.

Cler. Cryer call in *Gregory Grutchmeat*.

O yes *Gregory Grutchmeat*.

Indg. Come you thin belly, what can you say against the Prisoner at the barr, dost thou know him?

Greg. Know him, yes my Lord, his name is *Christmass*, a great waster & spendthrift, he hath been all his days nothing like *Sampsons Lyon*, out of that eater came forth meat, but this old fellow devours all, and produces nothing, hee passes the great eater of *Kent*, his mind is wholly set upon his belly, for satisfaction of which, hee murders the poor innocent Creatures: My Lord, let the Records be searcht; and before the flood, we cannot find, that man ever eat any thing but fruit or hearbs, but this Cormorant is all for flesh flesh, and eats it with the blood thereof, which is the cause that he is so beastly minded, a meer *Esau*, he will sell his birthright to satisfy his belly, he is a Bastard, begotten of the horseleaches Daughter continually crying, give, give; Some people of this Nation are to be foyld by this old fool, that they make a world of provision against his coming, and invite him to be Gosip to all their Pyes, and call them after his name, *Christmas-Pyes*.

My Lord, here is an honest Neighbour of mine called *Pinch-gut*, can testify as much as my self.

B

Conn-

Councel.

Hear me a word my Lord, and if you please,
Pharoahs ill-favoured Kine were fed by
Clerk, Cryer call Pinch-gut. (these.

Cr. O yes, Mr. Pinch-gut.

Indg. Come fellow, what can you say agaist the Prisoner?

Pinch. I perceive my Lord the Councel-
lor is purposed to abuse us, to please his
Clyent, as all the fraternity will do, but I
would have him know, that I was well
descended, my Father was call'd Savine,
and my Mothers name was Spare, a very
good hous-wife; and of great repute amongst
the Farmers.

Indg. Fellow, I am not come here to examine pedigrees, were they as Authentick as a Welch-mans. But come let me hear what thou canst say in the behalf of the Commonwealth, agaist the Prisoner at the Barr.

Pinch-gut. My Lord, I can say that this Old man is an Epicure, all his delight is to please his Pallat, his throat is an open Sepulchre, he is the Canker of the Commonwealth; worse than the Locust; or the Palmer-worm, and this is the summe of what I can testify.

Councel.

This is a liberall fellow t'is confess,
He will keep all, and give away the rest.

Indg. What witnesses are there more?

Clerk.

Clerk. call Mr. Allwork.

Cr. O yes, Mr. Allwork Allwork All-
works

Indg. Friend, whats the matter you must
have so much calling, and so long com-
ing?

Counc.

(state,

*It must be so my Lord, even snails keep
When with slow pace, their horns peep forth
(the gate.*

Allwork. I was very busy my Lord in my
shop.

Indg. Can you evidence any thing against
the Prisoner?

Allw. I can witnessse that he is a very idle
fellow: I saw a warrant the other day un-
der the Lord chief Justices own hand; Com-
manding us to work six days, and this old
villain would perswade us to play twelve:
he teaches also revelling and rebellion, we
cannot bear any rule with our servants when
he come, for if we command them to fol-
low their work, they will murmur and deny
it, saying is it not Christmas time?

Thus my Lord, and severall other wayes,
he is the Author of Rebellion and sedition,
in fine my Lord, he brings with him, both
fire, fuel, and bellows of contention, thus be-
ing extream hasty, about my labour, I desire
your honour to excuse me.

Coming, v. 11. 112. 113.
 - Each industrious soul's labour for others,
 Which none will thank thee; nay, perhaps
 From you we may expect a bribe. (The soes.
 - in old. Archers any more pun.

Clerk. Call Mr. Meanwell.

Cr. O yes, Mr. Meanwell.

Judge. Come fellow, what can you say?

Mr. May. My Lord, I can say that this Old-
 man is a spend-thrift, a riotous spoil-good,
 he is the chief cause that the good Creatures
 are abused, he is a superstitious and an Id-
 olatrous fellow, an observer of times, he makes
 his belly his God, a mere Devil, he fares de-
 liciously every day, but his scalling is the
 cause of poor Lazarus his fasting.

He provokes only to wanton fullness, &
 flatfull love, he makes those that love him,
 and his company, unfit for any good duty;
 but on the contrary, he makes them ready
 for all evil, as uncleanness, scurility, vain
 talking, and the like, he is like the Idola-
 trous Israelites, they eat and drank no men-
 tion of grace before meat; and rose up to
 play; there's no mention of grace after meat,
 just so doth he, he teaches that which the
 people of the old World practised; only
 eating and drinking, and such other de-
 lights! This was he my Lord that invited
 Jobsons to dinner.

He overcomes men with surfeiting, and
 Drun-

of Christmās.

xx

Drunkean: He, and makes them that they cannot pronounce Shiboleth: he hath twelve sons; all follow the steps of their Father, and they keep company with one Mr. Prudent, Mr. Westfull, Betty-the-bear, and Idle, with Mr. Gamester; and such others like them; all the accursed Brats of base men: here is a friend of mine, called Mrs. Prudence, she can inform your honour of some thing else.

Council.

Thy vassall Mean-well friend, I know it is
That thou art call'd, yet so shew we're add're
Thy Father he was call'd Curious, he would
Know all that he did not, I (know,) (know,) (know,) (know)
Whither the Rain-bow had a string or no
What wood, the mass that's in the Moon
(dark hurry),
Or whither he intend or no, to marry.

Such monsters, yea such Satyres, and mad
(strains,
Danc'd in the wilderness of his wilbraaps.

Cler. Call Mrs. Prudence.

Ct. O yes, Mrs. Prudence.

Judge. Make room for that Gentlewoman to come in, Come good woman, are not you a stranger hereabouts.

Prud. My Lord, wheresoever your honour is, I desire to be your hand-maid; as for my residence, it is most in the University, &c here and there, sometimes in the Country, I

am found as soon in a lowly Cottage, as under a lofty Crown.

I have a Sister call'd *Wisdom*, we always travell and dwell together.

Judg. Jury take a speciall notice of this womans testimony , and get as much acquaintance with her & her sister as you can, Come vertuous woman , let me hear what thou canst say,in the behalfe of the Commonwealth against the Prisoner.

Prud. My Lord, much hath been already spoken, and much more I can say , this Old man hath been one chief instrument that I & my Children ha ye been abused. I have three Daughters, My Lord, the first is called *Patience*, the second *Temperance*, and the third *Chastity*, & one so named *Sobriety*, all these by this *Christmases* means , are injuriously dealt withall, and violently handled; which before his coming , were in good estimation in Gentlemens houses; my daughter *Patience* is an admirable good servant , she uses to look to the Children, and servants, & would keep them in love, peace, and quiet , if at any time she were reviled , she would not revile again,

Josephs words were often in her mouth , *see that yee fall not out by the way*:she is an excellent Labourer , and in the winter time of adversity , no Christian able to live without her, yet this naughtie fellow , hath much wronged

wronged this my Daughter, and caused her to be thrown out of doors : for wheresoever he is entertain'd he carries a very base fellow called *Gamester* with him, and he hath two companions, the one called *Spendall*, and the other *Careless*; these will ride abroad night times, yizarded to glean money, to maintain their play, and make men stand, that would fain be going, and leave the stranger with a heavy heart, and light purse: This *Gamester* hath also one chief man called *Anger*, and also two *Pages*, the one called *Swearing*, the other *Cursing*, and when there is any difference about their Masters play, these two presently call in two others as good as themselves, one named *Quarrelling*, the other named *Fighting*; and thele murder my daughter *Patience*.

For my second Daughter *Temperance*, she is a very abstemious maid, and uses alwaies to wait upon the Table, before this wicked wretch comes, & then she is banisht, or choaked, at the best thrown our of the doors: and then perhaps, must lye without in the street, no entertainment can get, if he be in the Town, unless it be at some honest Tradesmans house, it may be at the Ministers, if he be one of the last edition.

My third Daughter *Chastity* is as beautifull as the Sun, and she is a Chamber-maid,

and this fellow is the cause that she is abused also , for Gluttony hath two Associates, Chambering & Wantonnesse , and these kick my poor Daughter diverse times down the staires; Thus my Lord, my Children whcm I have so educated, as they are fit Companions for Princes , are by this vyle Varlet abused: my Lord in few words, he is the cause that many men make their Tables and Alter to their belly, and a snare to their souls.

Indg. Prudence many women have done virtuously , but thou hast excelled them all.

Pzn. Good my Lord pity me ?

Indg. I do, and will pity thee.

Coun.

Good my Lord, your pity a while hold,
One Tale is good, untill the others told.

(then)

Hear but old Christmas what he says, and
You will reserve some pity for old men.

Indg. Old Christmas hold up thy head
and speak for thy self , thou hast heard thy
inditement , & also what all these Witnesses
have evide: ced against thee : what sayest
thou now for thy self, that sentence of con-
demnation should not be pronounced a-
gainst thee?

Christm. Good my Lord be favourable to
an o:d man , I am above one thousand six
hundred years old , & never was questioned
at Sizes or Sessions before: my Lord , took
on

on these white hairs, are they not a Crown of glory?

Judg. Yea, if they be found in a good way.

Christm. I hope you shall not find these in a bad way.

And first my Lord, I am wronged in being indicted by a wrong name. I am corruptly called *Christmas*, my name is *Christ-tide*, or time.

And though I generally come at a set time, yet I am with him every day that knows how to use me.

My Lord, let the Records be searcht, and you shall find, that the Angels rejoyc'd at my coming; and *lungs gloria in excelsis*: The Patriarchs, and Prophets; longed to see me.

The fathers have sweetly imbraced me, our modern Divines all comfortably cherish mee, O let me not be despised now I am old. Is there not an injunction in *Magna Charta*; that commands men to inquire for the old way, which is the good way: many good deeds do I do, O why do the people hate me? we are commanded to be given to Hospitality, and this hath been my practise from my youth upward: I come to put men in mind of their redemption: to have them love one the other, to impart with something here below, that they may receive more and better

ter things above: the wyfeman saith, there is a time for all things, and why not for thankfulness? I have been the caufe, that at my coming Ministers have instructed the people every day in the Publick: telling the people how they should use me, and other delights, not to effeminate or corrupt the mind: and bid them abhor those pleasures from which they should not rise bettered, and that they shoule by no means turn pass-time into Trade: And if that at any time they have stept an inch into excesse, to punish themselves for it, and be ever after the more carefull to keep within compass.

And did also advise them, to manage their sports without Passion: They would also tell the people, that their feasts should not be much more than nature requires, and grace moderates: not pinching, nor pampering: And whereas they say that I am the caufe they sit down to meat, and rise up again graceleſſe, they abundantly wrong me: I have told them, that before any one should put his hand in the dſh, he should look up to the owner; and hate to put one morsell in his mouth unbleſſed: I tell them they ought to give thanks for that which is paid for already, knowing that neither the meat, nor the mouth, nor the man, are of his own making: I bid them fill their bellies, not their eyes;

eyes, and rise from the board, not glutted but only satisfied: and charge them to have a care, that their guts be no hinderances to their brains, or hands: and that they should not loose themselves in their feasts; but bid hem be soberly merry, and wisely free. I also advise them to get friendly thrifte to be their Caterer, and Temperance to Carve at the board, and be very watchfull that Obscenity, detraction, and lcurrility, be banisht the Table: But let their discourse be as savoury as the meat: and so feed as though they did eat to live, not live to eat: and at laft, rise as full of thankfulness, as of food: This hath, this is, and this shall be my continual practise: now concerning the particulars that these folks charge me with, I cannot answer them, because I do not remember them; my memory is but weak, as old mens use to be: but me thinks they seem to be the seed of the dragon, they send forth of their mouths, whole floods of impious inventions against me, and lay to my charge things that I am not guilty of: which hath caused some of my friends to forsake me, and look upon me as a stranger: My Brother *Good-works* broke his heart, when he hear don't: my sister *Charity* was taken with the Num-Palsy, so that she cannot stretch forth an hand: O tell it not in the City, nor publish

in the Country: my Lord, I am but a bad
Orator; therefore I humbly desire your ho-
nor; to hearken to my Councell and wit-
nesses.

*In the mean space, I/ce sleep I cannot hold,
Good mire is dead, O, Charlie's half cold.*

Lord Councillor, what can you say.
COUN. We thinks my Lord, the very Clouds
Bluff, to see this old Gentleman thus egre-
giously abus'd; if at any time any have abu-
sed themselves by immoderate eating, and
drinking or otherwise spoil the creatures, it
is none of this old man's fault; neither ought
he to suffer for it; for example the Sun and
the Moon are by the heathen worship'd, are
they therefore bad because idoliz'd? So if any
abuse this old man, they are bad for abusing
him, not he bad, for being abus'd: These
Bastards of Amon, have abus'd him, and
therefore now would banish him: far base
from my Lord, to easheir a good thing, with
the base use annexed thereto! They term
his charity, wasting and spoiling, the tra-
king of Idlers, and encreas'ing of Beggers:
But where too much charity hath slain her
thousands, too little hath slain her ten thou-
sands; some of these, withesses did hint at
Religion; but I believe they are maidens for
that, the first that woos them may win them;
they tak' him of Rebellion, and sedition, but
how

how can love and peace be the Mother of that: for that is his Motto.

As for Mrs. *Prudence*, because your honour is pleased to give more credence to her testimony, than to any of the rest; I shall answer her in particular: and first for her children, I must confess as she said, they are fit Companions for Princes, but she slanders Old Father *Christmas*, to say there be ever wronged any of them; no, he ever had a good esteem of them, it was one *Anger*, a scury fellow, with *Wrath* and *Rage* his Sons, that threw her daughter *Patient* out of doors, and got her, and for her daughter *Temperance* it was *Gluttony*, and unquenchable appetite, that abused her and not this old man.

And for her daughter *Chastity*, it was a scury scabby fellow, called *Carnal Concupiscent*, that forced her; therefore I beseech your honour, give not any ear to these false reports: then said the Judge, Mr. *Sheriff* give order for the apprehending of these fellows, and presently after apprehending of them, execute them.

(then 170,

*Then dragg them to the ditch, where let
So long as one man hath a mewry.*

Coun. My Lord here are some honest men, desire to give in their evidence in the old mans behalf.

Judge.

Judg. Who are they, let them be called.

Clerk. Cryer, call *Simon Servant.*

Cr. O yes, *Simon Servant.*

Call *Peter Poor.*

Cr. *Peter Poor.*

Call, *Nicholas Neighborhood.*

Cr. *Nich.* *Neighborhood.*

Judg. Come *Simon Servant*, what can you say in behalf of the Old man here.

Serv. My Lord, I live at the Town of *Bond*, in the County of little *Rest*; my Master is called *Mr. Hard-heart*, a great enemy to his old father at the barr: but for mine own part, I will speak upon my oath; that I had suffered more than an *Egyptian* bondage had it not been for him.

I had had a Sabbathlesse pursuit of my masters Labour, had it not been for him: the very beasts that groan under the burden are beholden to him for ease, for when the Ox and the Asle's neck, seem'd married to the yoak, he divorc't them, the very Jews had their Jubilees, times of rest, theretore good my Lord, if you give us nothing, keep not our brick and straw from us.

Judg. *Peter Poor*, what can you say.

Poor. My Lord, I dwell at the Town of *Want*, in the County of *Needs*, Poor in name, and poor in estate: and had it not been for old *Christmas* I had been poorer, if poorer

poorer I could have been ; had it not been for him , my best friend *God-free Giving*, had lost his life : all that have spoke against him, are all *Gadarens*, and of the Linage of *Naball* , (Mris. *Prudence* only excepted) if you take away this merry old Gentleman from us , you take away all our Joy , and comfort that we have on earth.

*Hear us good Judge, we for thy favour call;
Save him alive, or else destroy us all.*

Clerk. Call Mr. Neighborhood.

Cr. O yes, Neighborhood.

Judg. Come friend what can you say ?

Neighbor. May it please you my Lord ,
I dwell at the Town of *Amity*, in the County of *Unity*, my Father was the good *Samaritan* , and my Mother was called *Dorcas*, and all that I can say for this Old man is , that he is a very kind and loving man ; inoffensive to all : a hater of strife , a lover of harmless mirth:our whole Town & County are much beholding to him when he comes , for he uses all means to bring us together, & to renew friendship:he is a great Peacemaker, if there have been any difference betwixt party ,& party, he will indeavour to end it in an amicable way : he always uses to tell me (next God) I must love my namesake, to glorify the first, & tenderly affect the second : in

fine



THE
Afternoon Tryall
OF
Old Father
CHRISTMAS,
At the Assizes held at the
Town of *Difference*, in the
County of *Discontent*.

Written according to Legal proceeding,
By *Josiah King*.

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